



# Deer Valley Unified School District

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**Adam Korman**

**Digital Communications**

**C118**

**623-376-3118**

[dvusd.org/mrhs-korman](http://dvusd.org/mrhs-korman)

## **Course Description:**

This course provides students with unique and diverse opportunities to practice cross-curricular, real-life skills. Newspaper students will gain valuable experience as writers, editors, photographers, computer technicians, graphic designers, historians, advertisers and business people while learning to function as a team, a skill increasingly demanded in today's world. Our ultimate goal in newspaper is to create publications that accurately capture the climate of Mountain Ridge, the surrounding community, the state of Arizona, the nation and our world. This will be accomplished through hard work, dedication and a timeless pursuit of ethical objectivity all within the frame of professional journalistic standards. This course is aligned with Arizona College and Career Ready Standards and/or national content standards and supports school-wide efforts to increase student achievement..

## **Course Objectives:**

By the time the student completes this course of study, the student will know or be able to:

- conduct interviews, surveys, etc..
- write captions, headlines, and stories
- use technology including cameras and computer programs such as InDesign, and Photoshop
- demonstrate journalistic skills such as fairness and accuracy
- identify and utilize design elements and publication trends
- demonstrate basic knowledge of monthly newspaper publishing

## **Classroom Rules and Consequences:**

1. Be respectful to everyone and everything!
2. Enjoy food and drinks in designated areas such as the cafeteria.
3. Be prepared for class everyday with the materials outlined on this syllabus.
4. Be in your assigned seat and begin your bell work before the bell rings.
5. Mature behavior will be displayed in and around the classroom.

**Examples of Negative Consequences:** (1) Verbal warning, (2) Removal from class, (3) Parent Contact, (4) Seating Change, (5) Referral, (6) Removal by security staff

### **Grading:**

Grades are based on a percentage of all possible points: (100%-90%=A, 89%-80%=B, 79%-70%=C, 69%-60%=D, 59% and lower=F).

- Grades are cumulative for the semester.
- No extra credit will be accepted.

### **Report Cards**

In an effort to conserve resources and harness the capacity of our electronic grade reporting program (PowerSchool) district schools will no longer print hard copies of report cards unless requested by individual parents. To request a hard copy of your student's report card, please contact the front office at 623-376-3000. To receive your PowerSchool login, please stop into the office with a valid photo ID.

### **Power School Online Access:**

Grades and attendance may be accessed 24 hours a day online with your Power School access code. Access codes are available in the Counseling Office or Front Desk Monday – Friday 7:00 AM– 3:30 PM. You may check student progress regularly on the PowerSchool site using the same login for one or more students. For Mountain Ridge parents/guardians without home computer access, a computer with guest log-in capability is available in the Counseling Conference Room.

### **Academic Assistance/Office Hours:**

In addition to the Academic Prep times built into our schedule each week, additional assistance/tutoring is provided on a weekly basis both by MRHS and individually by instructors. These office hours will be posted in my classroom, website, and/or Canvas at the start of each week. I will demonstrate to the students how to find my availability each week.

### **Make-up Policy:**

**Absences:** After an absence, a student has one school day for each day missed to make up work/tests, regardless of the number of days absent. If many days were missed, please schedule an appointment with me to formulate a plan for the completion of make-up work. Make-up work for extended absences (over 3 days) may be requested through the Counseling Office and picked up there.

**Late Assignments Policy:** Mountain Ridge students have within the current unit of study to turn in assigned work for full credit, as determined by the teacher, level, and department on campus. The length of the unit of study and due dates will be clearly communicated to students by the teacher. Any assignment less than a week old at the end of a unit will have a one-week submission period.

**Classwork Policy:** In-class assignments may be due by the end of the class period.

## **Test Retakes – Summative Tests Only**

### **Daily Device Use (iPads)**

Students should come to school with their iPads charged and ready to use in each class every day. Devices may not be used to record or take photos of other people without their consent. Consequences for classroom disruptions and misuse of devices will follow a progressive discipline model, beginning with a phone call home and progressing to office referrals for repeated or more serious offenses. See the Student Rights and Responsibilities consequence chart in the handbook for more specific descriptions of infractions and consequences.

### **Recommended Supplies for this Course:**

1. Blue or black pen, a sharpened pencil and a highlighter.
2. Loose-leaf paper for your homework assignments.
3. A flash drive (can be used in other classes)